



Minutes Tempe Veterans Commission March 02, 2021

Minutes of the TEMPE VETERANS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, March 02, 6:00 p.m., via Microsoft Teams.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Jeremy Farr, Chair
Abe McCann, Vice-Chair
William "Bill" Blair
Phillip Kraft
Michelle Loposky
Chantele Carr

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Celia Sadhu
Cameron Johnson
Timothy Rogers

Staff Present:

Octavia Harris, Deputy Human Services Director

Guests Present:

Jason Barlow, Habitat for Humanity
Aaron Peterson, City of Tempe

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Jeremy Farr called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Attendance

Agenda Item 3 – Public Appearances

Agenda Item 4 – Review and Approval of February 02, 2021 Minutes

MOTION: Motion to APPROVE February 02, 2021 minutes by Commission Member Bill Blair

SECOND: Motion seconded by Vice Chair Abe McCann

AYES: Chair Jeremy Farr, Vice Chair Abe McCann, Commission Members Bill Blair, Phillip Kraft, Michelle Loposky, and Chantele Carr,

ABSENT: Commission Members Celia Sadhu, Cameron Johnson, and Timothy Rogers

Agenda Item 5 – Chair's Remarks

Chair Jeremy Farr welcomed everyone and thanked commission members for their efforts and contributions. Discusses schedule and access to COVID -19 vaccinations.

Agenda Item 6 – Introduction of New Commission Member, Celia Sadhu

New Commission Member unable to attend meeting. Introduction tabled for next meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Analysis of Veteran's Survey - Aaron Peterson, City of Tempe

Aaron Peterson shares data from Veteran's Survey via spreadsheet. Shares patterns he found in responses and discusses ways future surveys could be reframed to optimize responses and data. Age distribution trend towards 55+ and may be skewing data. Aaron discusses potential marketing objectives to ensure respondents are representative of national averages. Encourages commission to track changes around demographics and questions to determine trends for future surveys. Chair asks commission to send areas of focus to Aaron for further analysis. Aaron to make the spreadsheet accessible for the Commission to review.

Agenda Item 8 – Presentation by Habitat for Humanity - Jason Barlow CEO, Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity CEO and retired Air Force officer Jason Barlow presents to the Veteran's Commission about Habitat for Humanity's efforts in the Valley area. Habitat for Humanity has worked with the City of Tempe for 28 years, in May of 2019 Habitat for Humanity developed a 18 3 story townhome development on Don Carlos. Owners of Habitat for Humanity homes have to contribute "work-sweat equity" wherein they contribute 400 hours time on their own homes or the homes of others. Tempe Parkview built over 4 years, 28 sponsors contributed 1.4 million dollars and 7400 volunteers contributed 68,000 volunteer hours to complete the development. The volunteer hours. Habitat for Humanity also has a repair program funded through sponsor dollars, to repair roofs, windows, air conditioning, painting and landscaping. There is an annual cap for repairs for recipients, so recipients receive repairs in consecutive years. Habitat for Humanity has been awarded four large parcels but the City of Tempe, which they will use to build 15 new affordable homes. Habitat for Humanity has built over 1200 in the Valley, 30-60% median income residents served. Homeowners pay back Habitat for Humanity an affordable mortgage for 20-40 years, 0 interest. While the program made adjustments due to COVID 19, 21 homes have been built serving 247 families since the onset of the pandemic. There have been 0 evictions since the onset of the pandemic, if mortgage payments are missed they are added back on the total loan. There is also a program for aging seniors to make adjustments that make homes more accessible. Veterans are also served by this program, validation of income not required, sweat equity desired if they are able. Habitat for Humanity is also partnering with US Vets to build transitional housing for homeless veterans. Construction training program also available veterans, program includes: stipend, certification, and opportunity to complete HS diploma.

Jason Barlow asks the commission to spread word about programs to veterans as Habitat for Humanity is trying to serve as many vets as possible. Chair Jeremy Farr offers to list programs on resources website. Octavia Harris asks for info on volunteer opportunities for commission members and community at large. Jason Barlow to send flyers for website.

Agenda Item 9 – Commission Member Updates/Announcements

Chantele Carr sent out MAC scholarship information as asked to all 10 colleges. No other updates from commission members.

Agenda Item 10 – Future Agenda Items – April 6, 2021

- Follow Up with Aaron Peterson
- Care 7 Presentation

Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Next meeting will be on April 6, 2021

Minutes Prepared by: Terrisa Mays

Reviewed by Octavia Harris

Jeremy Farr, Chair
Tempe Veterans Commission